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Featured Library: Parrish Library

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The Roland G. Parrish Library of Management & Economics is located within the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University. Between 2005 - 2007 work was completed on a white paper that focused on a student-centered vision for the Management & Economics Library. The next step was a massive collection reduction and a re-envisioning of both the services and space of the library. Thus began a 3 phase renovation from a 2 floor standard, collection-focused library into a single floor, 18,000sq ft. dynamic student-centered space. Each phase added to the overall design while reinforcing the core concept of a student-centered learning environment. The entire space was designed to be multi-functional and provide functional adjacencies between each phase.

Phase 1 consists of a corporate-level quiet study room and a cutting edge classroom (3745sq ft). The Corporate Study is an enclosed room that seats approximately 30+ students in a variety of seating options that include private carrels, small 4 seat tables and 2 long tables with individual lighting. A window in one wall looks out on the rest of the library and the building elevators allowing for students to see and be seen while in the room. The study can be reserved as it contains a countertop area so that it can be used for special meetings and catered events. Directly adjacent to the Corporate Study is the LearnLab, a 40-seat computer lab and classroom. The LearnLab is a SteelCase designed classroom with a unique X-pattern of tables with computers. The room is also equipped with 3 interactive LED flat-panel screens, low-tech portable dry-erase boards for group brainstorming, and a wall-mounted digital camera to scan the boards and send them up to the Web for quick display. Phase 1 was renovated between May to Sept. 2009.

The second phase focused on collaboration. The space (3083sq ft) contains a general collaborative area with approximately a half dozen small movable tables, 4 MediaScape tables with LCD monitors and laptop connections for team collaboration, and 2 small breakout pods. In addition to these tables, there is a 20-seat Financial Conference Room that is Web- and Tele-conference ready. Also available in Phase 2, which is directly connected to Phase 1, is the Leadership Communication Center. This is space that the Parrish Library provides to the School of Management undergraduate program for student presentation practice. The room is set up with a podium, a wall-mounted digital video camera, a desk and a computer for students to give presentations, have them recorded, and then critiqued by a graduate assistant. We saw this as an opportunity to drive a different type of traffic into the Parrish Library and to connect deeper into the lives of the students. Phase 2 was renovated May to Sept, 2010.

Phase 3 is the remaining available space (11,499sq ft) and is also considered the showcase space. It contains our Information/Reference Desk, a Gathering Space and Cafe', approximately 22 computer workstations, a 14 seat flexible classroom/meeting room, staff office space, a small high-use print collection, and numerous seating options. The bulk of the print collection is housed in compact-shelving in the basement of the adjacent MBA building, Rawls Hall. As was planned for, the space can provide for a

variety of options and multi-functional uses. The Information Desk is designed so that once the library services are finished for the day the space is locked up and available for students to use overnight. The Parrish Library runs on a 24/5 schedule, open continuously from Sunday morning until Friday evening. The Gathering Space and Cafe' contains several vending machines, as well as a fresh ground coffee machine that can be paid for with a credit or debit card. The space provides for both bar-height seating and booth seating. It has become a prime location for numerous hosted events and dinners for organizations within the School of Management. Holding these events within the Parrish Library has significantly changed the dynamics and the perception of the Library within the culture of the School of Management. The flex-classroom is designed to serve as a standard conference room, but instead of a single table it is actually 6 smaller tables connected together; this allows for a variety of alternate configurations for meetings or small classes. Phase 3 involved significant input from an interior designer to create a visually dynamic space that included subtle uses of color, changes of shading in the flooring, architectural elements in the ceiling and pillars to create distinctive areas and transitions between the spaces. Phase 3 was renovated between May, 2011 to Feb 2012.

Each phase, upon completion, aided in displaying the overall vision which helped the School of Management administrators see the benefits of the library, as well as showed potential donors the vision and where we were going. Student input was included at various stages throughout the renovation creating excitement and 'ownership' of the renovation. It was particularly telling when a student commented on being disappointed that he would graduate before the library was completed.

The Parrish Library was awarded the 2013 Special Libraries Association's Business & Finance Division Centers of Excellence Award for Management based on the overall plan and implementation of the redesign and renovation. The Library was also the recipient of the 2013 Interior Design Excellence Awards, specifically focusing on the Phase 3 renovation. For more information, visit <https://www.lib.purdue.edu/libraries/mgmt/about>

About Purdue University:

Purdue University, founded in 1871, became the State of Indiana's Morrill Land Grant Act institution of higher learning. Located in West Lafayette, IN along the banks of the Wabash River it offers several hundred different programs to over 40,000 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. For more information, visit <http://www.purdue.edu>.

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About the author:

Hal Kirkwood is a Business Information Specialist and Associate Professor within the Roland G. Parrish Library of Management & Economics at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. He has been employed at Purdue University for 17+ years. He is currently a Director on the Board of Directors of the Special Libraries Association.